

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 30, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered. It is noted that the Office Action was sent to the wrong address. All further correspondence regarding this application should be sent to the offices of the undersigned attorney, in accordance with a paper entitled "Letter" that was filed on April 18, 2005.

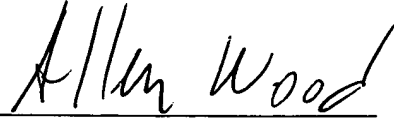
In section 3, the Office Action rejects several claims for indefiniteness on account of language appearing in claims 5, 9, and 10. The present Amendment revises these claims, and it is respectfully submitted that they are now suitably definite under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112. It is noted that the present Amendment additionally makes revisions in several other claims in order to improve their form under U.S. claim-drafting practice.

Section 4 of the Office Action rejects claims 9 and 13-16 for anticipation by U.S. patent 6,642,081 to Patti. The Examiner is thanked for the reminder about priority appearing in a footnote associated with this rejection.

Certified copies of the Japanese priority applications for the present U.S. application have already been filed. In order to perfect Applicant's claim for priority, a verified English translation of one of them (serial number 2001-338110, filed November 2, 2001) is attached. It is respectfully submitted that the English translation demonstrates that the disclosure of this Japanese priority application adequately supports the rejected claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Patti patent be withdrawn as a reference.

Furthermore, in the absence of other rejections on the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Allen Wood
Registration No. 28,134
Customer No. 23995
(202) 326-0222
(202) 408-0924 (facsimile)
(202) 408-5297 (facsimile)

AW:rw